MARVEL
3
JED MacKAY · LEE GARBETT · ANTONIO FABELA
THE DEATH OF DOCTOR STRANGE
STRANGE
kaare

THE DEATH OF DOCTOR STRANGE

Doctor Strange is dead. And with him gone, so too is Earth's magic barrier that warded off other dimensional threats. The planet is being occupied by kingdoms from across all of reality. But they aren't invading...they're fleeing.

That includes Clea, a sorcerer of the Purple Dimension and Strange's estranged wife. She has been chased back to Earth by the Three Mothers, mysterious apex predators hunting magical beings.

But even the combined might of the Avengers, Wong, Doctor Voodoo and a time-displaced Doctor Strange aren't enough to defeat them...

Jed MacKay
WRITER

Lee Garbett
ARTIST

Antonio Fabela
COLORIST

VC's Cory Petit
LETTERING

Kaare Andrews
COVER

Kim Jacinto; Inhyuk Lee
VARIANT COVERS

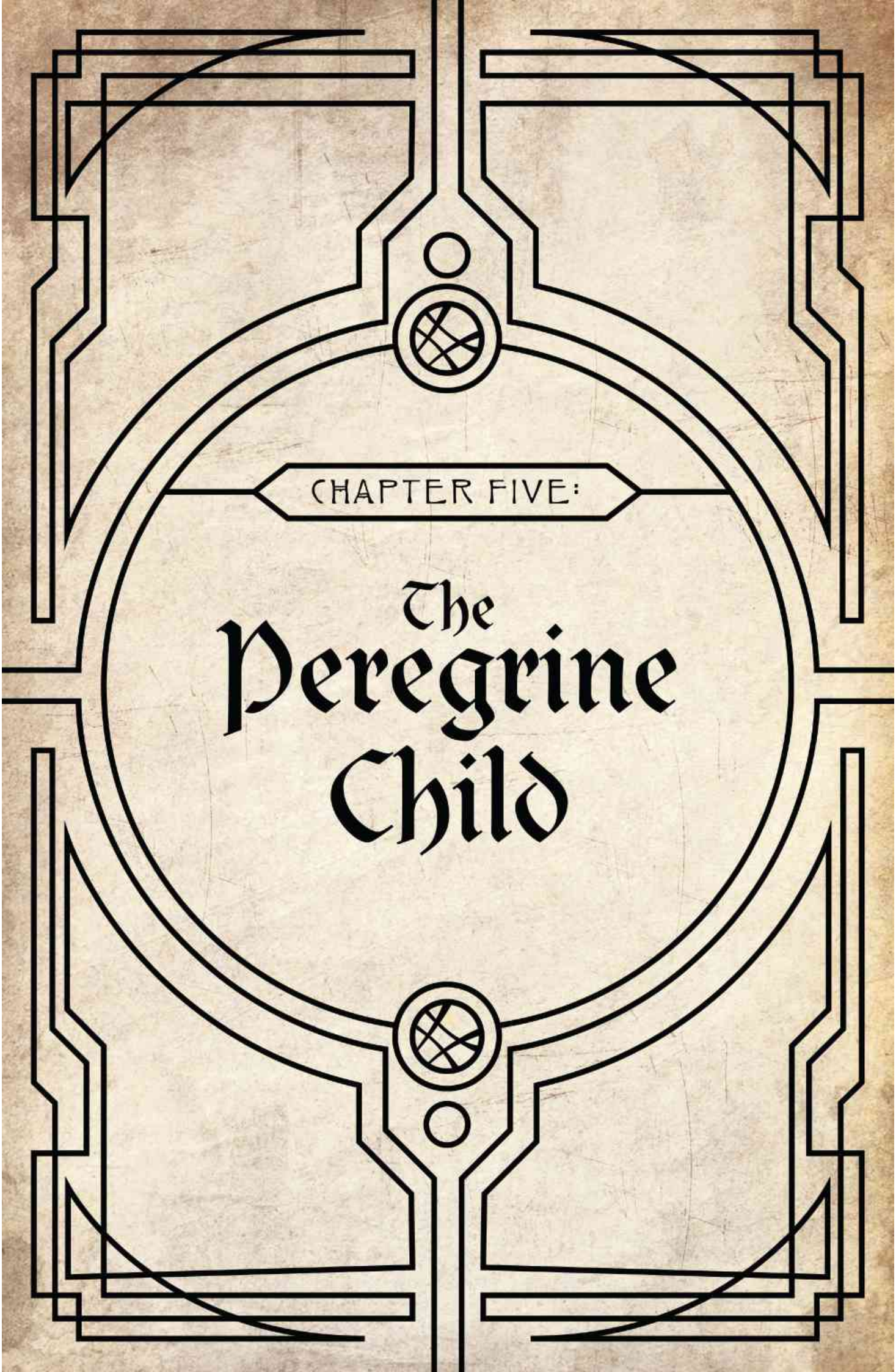
Kat Gregorowicz
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Darren Shan
EDITOR

C.B. Cebulski
EDITOR IN CHIEF

SPECIAL THANKS TO TOM BREVOORT

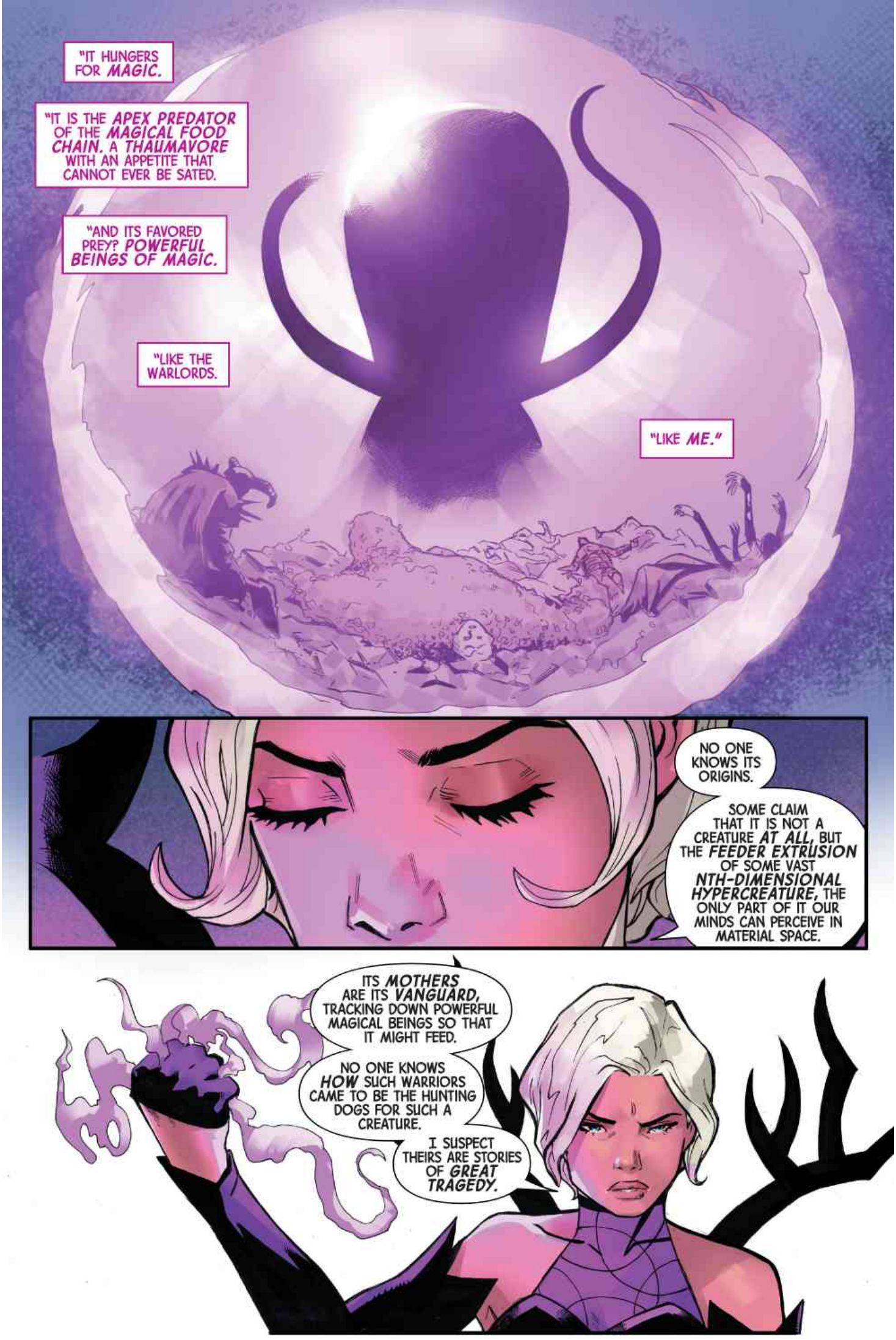
DOCTOR STRANGE CREATED BY STAN LEE & STEVE DITKO


CHAPTER FIVE:
The Peregrine Child

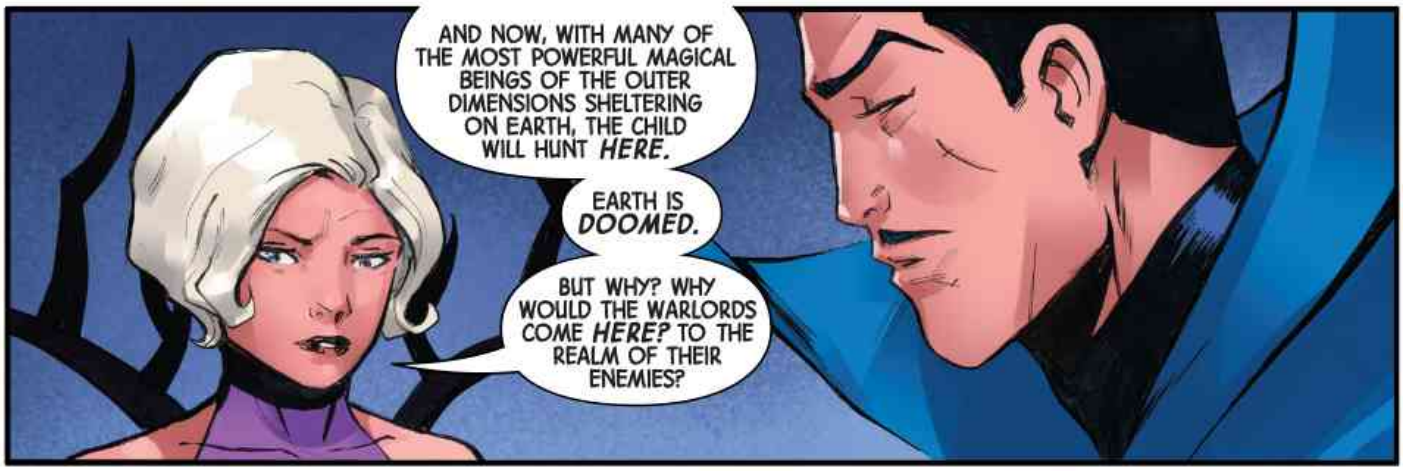
AVENGERS MOUNTAIN, NORTH POLE.
...REGARDING THE AUTOPSY OF DR. STEPHEN STRANGE...
...ATTENDED BY DR. STEPHEN STRANGE. I WILL BE PRESIDING OVER THE...MYSTICAL FORENSICS.
I WILL BE ASSISTED BY DR. JANE FOSTER IN THE BUSINESS OF THE CORPOREAL AUTOPSY.
THOUGH, REALISTICALLY, I WILL TAKE A MORE OBSERVATIONAL ROLE. MY HANDS, YOU SEE.
I THANK YOU FOR YOUR INDULGENCE, DOCTOR.

OF COURSE, DOCTOR.
I MUST CONFESS, THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THIS AUTOPSY... THIS IS A FIRST.
IT IS FOR ME AS WELL.
I FEAR IF IT WERE NOT FOR MY RIGOROUS MYSTICAL TRAINING, I WOULD BE HAVING A BREAKDOWN AT THIS VERY MOMENT.
I MEAN, I SAVED YOUR LIFE FROM THE GRIM REAPER NOT LONG AGO, STRANGE.*
*SEE VALKYRIE: JANE FOSTER #4-5! --DS
FROM DEATH THEMSELF?
NO, THE GRIM REAPER, HE'S--HE'S A COSTUMED IDIOT. A DEAD ONE, BUT--
--YOU KNOW WHAT? IT DOESN'T MATTER. NOT ANYMORE.
ARE WE READY TO BEGIN, DOCTOR?
INDEED, DOCTOR.
OPEN ME UP, IF YOU WOULD BE SO KIND.
LET US SEE WHAT SECRETS I CONTAIN.
"THE THREE MOTHERS."

THEY CAME FROM BEYOND THE OUTER PLANES.
THREE WARRIOR-QUEENS OF UNKNOWN LANDS, CARVING THEIR WAY ACROSS THE DIMENSIONS.
AN ARMY OF THREE WHOSE MANDATE IS SHEER ANNIHILATION.
LAND AFTER LAND FELL TO THEM.
NO KING OR QUEEN COULD STAND AGAINST THEM, NO WARLORD OR WARLOCK.
ENTIRE ARMIES WERE LAID WASTE IN THEIR NEED TO SATISFY THEIR CHILD.
AH. THIS CHILD.
PLEASE, TELL US ABOUT IT, LADY CLEA.
THE PEREGRINE CHILD IS HUNGER.


"IT HUNGERS FOR MAGIC.
"IT IS THE APEX PREDATOR OF THE MAGICAL FOOD CHAIN. A THAUMAVORE WITH AN APPETITE THAT CANNOT EVER BE SATED.
"AND ITS FAVORED PREY? POWERFUL BEINGS OF MAGIC.
"LIKE THE WARLORDS.
"LIKE ME."
NO ONE KNOWS ITS ORIGINS.
SOME CLAIM THAT IT IS NOT A CREATURE AT ALL, BUT THE FEEDER EXTRUSION OF SOME VAST NTH-DIMENSIONAL HYPERCREATURE, THE ONLY PART OF IT OUR MINDS CAN PERCEIVE IN MATERIAL SPACE.
ITS MOTHERS ARE ITS VANGUARD, TRACKING DOWN POWERFUL MAGICAL BEINGS SO THAT IT MIGHT FEED.
NO ONE KNOWS HOW SUCH WARRIORS CAME TO BE THE HUNTING DOGS FOR SUCH A CREATURE.
I SUSPECT THEIRS ARE STORIES OF GREAT TRAGEDY.

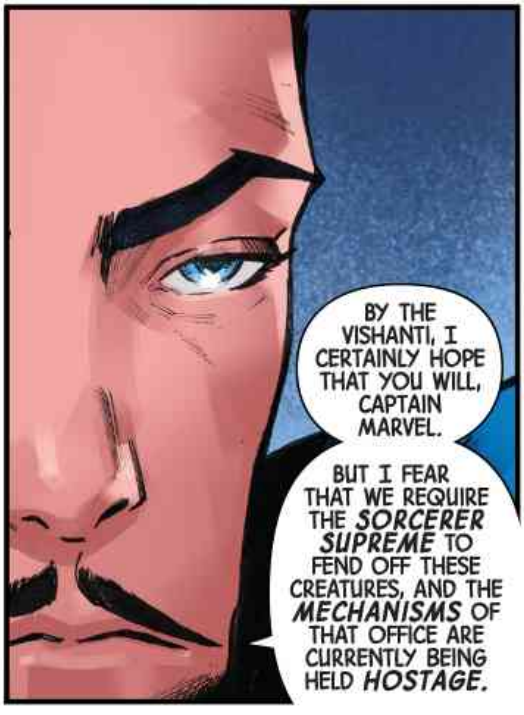
THE PIECES BEGIN TO FALL INTO PLACE.
STEPHEN!
WHAT DID YOU LEARN?
POWERFUL MAGIC WAS BROUGHT TO BEAR ON ME THAT NIGHT, WONG. BUT IT WAS NO MERE MURDER.
MY HANDS WERE TAKEN, WHICH WE KNOW--
--BUT THIS WAS NOT MERE BRUTALITY. IT WAS AN ACT OF RITUAL THEFT.
MY SOUL WAS STOLEN.
AND WITH IT, MY POWER AND THE POWER ALLOWED TO ME AS THE SORCERER SUPREME.
WITHOUT MY SOUL'S PASSING ON AND WITHOUT THE MAGIC OF THE SORCERER SUPREME DISSIPATING BACK TO THE AETHER...
...THERE CAN BE NO NEW SORCERER SUPREME.

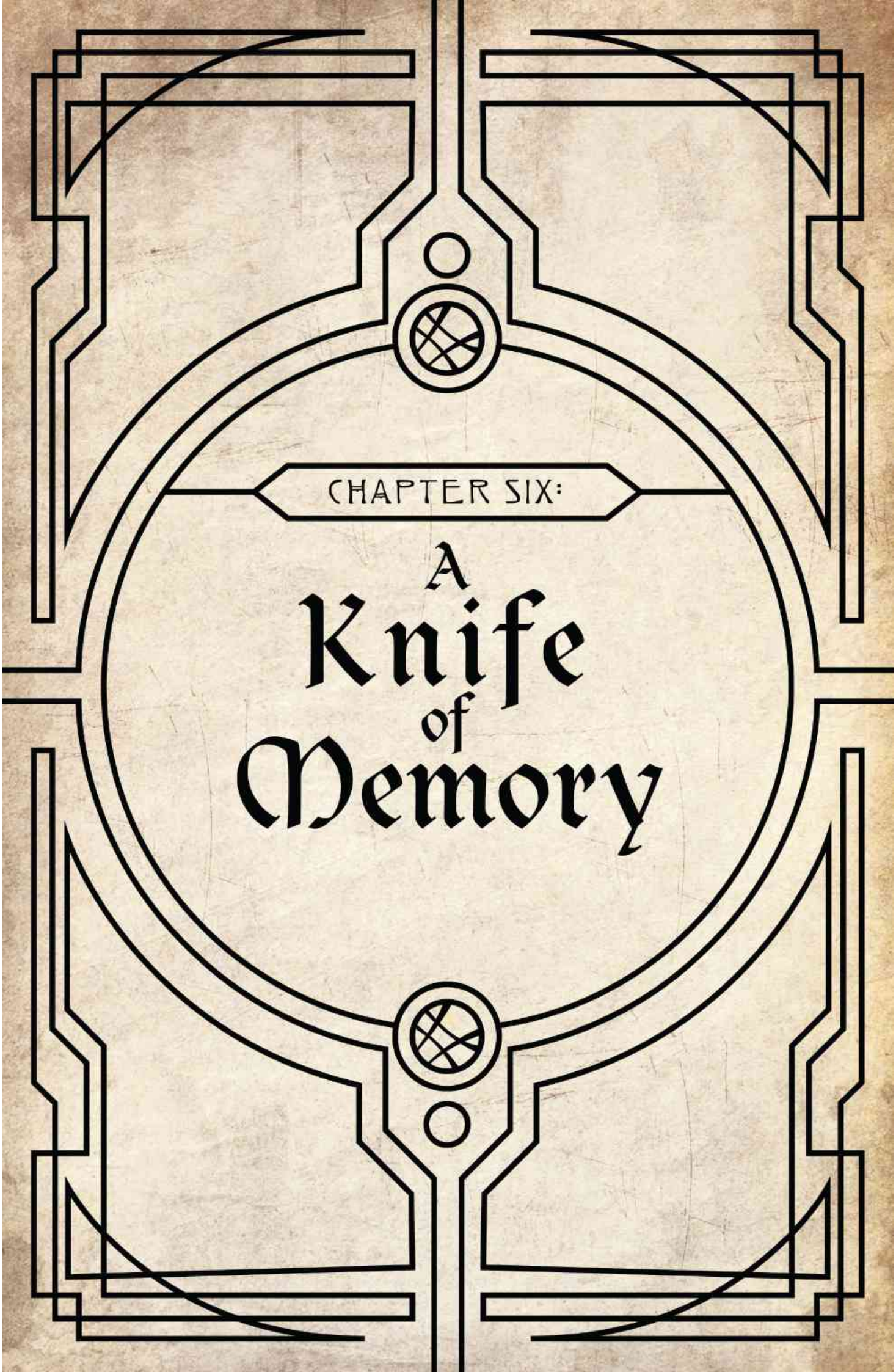

AND NOW, WITH MANY OF THE MOST POWERFUL MAGICAL BEINGS OF THE OUTER DIMENSIONS SHELTERING ON EARTH, THE CHILD WILL HUNT *HERE.*
EARTH IS *DOOMED.*
BUT WHY? WHY WOULD THE WARLORDS COME *HERE?* TO THE REALM OF THEIR ENEMIES?

IT'S THE *PERFECT PLACE* TO HIDE.
UMAR, AGGAMON, TIBORO... THE WARLORDS ARE CALLOUS--THEY CARE FOR NOTHING BUT *THEMSELVES.*
THEY WISH TO MAKE *THEIR* PROBLEM *OUR* PROBLEM.
AFTER ALL, HAVE WE NOT TURNED *GALACTUS* AWAY, TIME AND TIME AGAIN?

"GALACTUS?"
THANOS, DORMAMMU, ANNIHILUS, SHUMA-GORATH...*ALL* HAVE FAILED IN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO TAKE *EARTH.*
THE WARLORDS FLED HERE BECAUSE THEY WANT *US*--AVENGERS, X-MEN, FANTASTIC FOUR, *ALL* OF US--TO *PROTECT THEM.* THEY CARE *NOTHING* FOR THE DEATH AND DESTRUCTION THEY BRING AFTER THEM.

AND WE'LL HANDLE THESE MOTHERS AND THIS CHILD THING *TOO.*
WE'RE THE *AVENGERS.*


BY THE VISHANTI, I CERTAINLY HOPE THAT YOU WILL, CAPTAIN MARVEL.
BUT I FEAR THAT WE REQUIRE THE *SORCERER SUPREME* TO FEND OFF THESE CREATURES, AND THE *MECHANISMS* OF THAT OFFICE ARE CURRENTLY BEING HELD *HOSTAGE.*

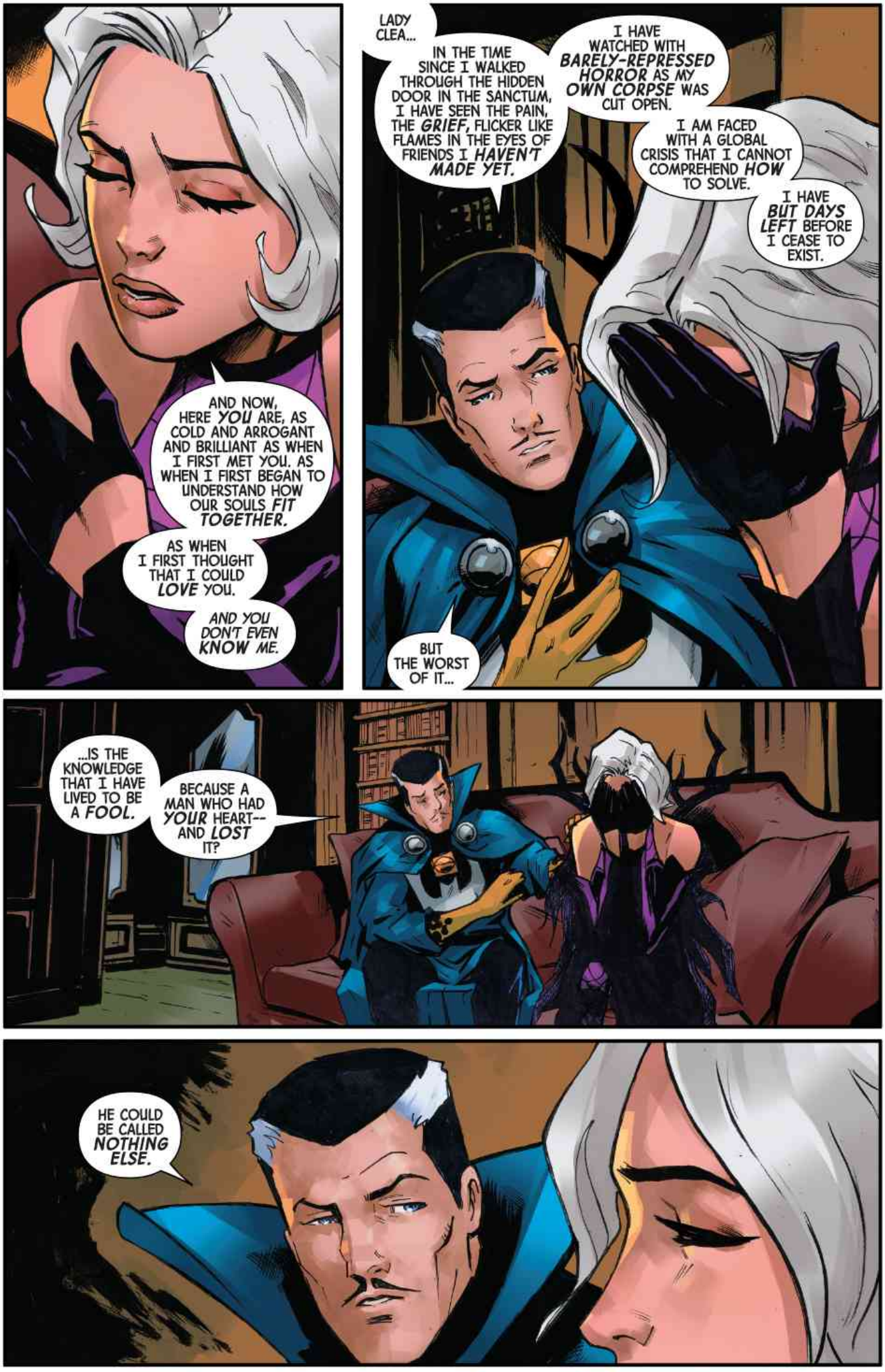

CHAPTER SIX:
A
Knife
of
Memory

THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM, NEW YORK.
...GO, SPIRIT!
WITH THE SPEED OF THOUGHT!
WITH CLARITY OF PURPOSE!
FIND WHAT I WISH AND RETURN!
I GO, MISTRESS! I GO!

THERE.
THE SPIRIT WILL CIRCLE THE GLOBE AS QUICKLY AS YOU OR I COULD THINK IT. IF THESE ITEMS ARE ON THIS PLANET...

...THEN FLIBBERTIGIBBET WILL FIND THEM.

YOUR TECHNIQUE IS EXQUISITE, LADY CLEA.
THANK YOU.
YOU MADE ME FORGET ABOUT YOU.*
WE HAD OVERCOME OUR PROBLEMS. WE HAD FOUND AGAIN WHAT HAD BROUGHT US TOGETHER IN THE FIRST PLACE.
THAT SPACE WHERE TWO SOULS OVERLAP.
*SEE DOCTOR STRANGE (2019) #17! --DS
ALL OF THAT WAS OURS AGAIN, STEPHEN. AND THEN YOU STOLE IT, STOLE MY EVERY MEMORY OF YOU, MADE YOURSELF A STRANGER TO ME.
LADY--
OH, YOU HAD YOUR REASONS, OF COURSE. YOU HAD TO PAY THE DEVIL FOR HELPING YOU REBUILD THE UNIVERSE.
IT WAS NOT SOMETHING YOU DID WILLINGLY, OR LIGHTLY, I'M SURE.
BUT THEN YOU DIED.
AND THE DEVIL RESTORED THOSE MEMORIES TO ME AT THE MOMENT OF YOUR DEATH, AT THE MOMENT WHEN THEY COULD BRING ONLY PAIN!
BECAUSE IN THAT, THERE WAS OPPORTUNITY FOR EVEN GREATER SUFFERING!


AND NOW, HERE YOU ARE, AS COLD AND ARROGANT AND BRILLIANT AS WHEN I FIRST MET YOU. AS WHEN I FIRST BEGAN TO UNDERSTAND HOW OUR SOULS FIT TOGETHER.
AS WHEN I FIRST THOUGHT THAT I COULD LOVE YOU.
AND YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW ME.
LADY CLEA...
IN THE TIME SINCE I WALKED THROUGH THE HIDDEN DOOR IN THE SANCTUM, I HAVE SEEN THE PAIN, THE GRIEF, FLICKER LIKE FLAMES IN THE EYES OF FRIENDS I HAVEN'T MADE YET.
I HAVE WATCHED WITH BARELY-REPRESSED HORROR AS MY OWN CORPSE WAS CUT OPEN.
I AM FACED WITH A GLOBAL CRISIS THAT I CANNOT COMPREHEND HOW TO SOLVE.
I HAVE BUT DAYS LEFT BEFORE I CEASE TO EXIST.
BUT THE WORST OF IT...
...IS THE KNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE LIVED TO BE A FOOL.
BECAUSE A MAN WHO HAD YOUR HEART-- AND LOST IT?
HE COULD BE CALLED NOTHING ELSE.

NO.
THIS IS NOT DONE.
YOU ARE A BRILLIANT, BEAUTIFUL WOMAN. BUT I AM NOT THE MAN YOU GRIEVE FOR. NOT YET.
IT WOULD BE UNFAIR TO TAKE ADVANTAGE--
NO, IT'S--
I'M SORRY.
MISTRESS! I RETURN! I RETURN!
WIDE HAVE I SEARCHED!
FAR HAVE I TRAVELED!
BUT I HAVE FOUND WHAT MY DREAD MISTRESS HAS CALLED FOR!

SPEAK, SWEET FLIBBERTIGIBBET!
WHERE LIES THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO?
WHERE RESTS THE CLOAK OF LEVITATION?
FAR FROM HERE, MISTRESS!
CAUGHT UP IN STONE AND MORTAR, IMPRISONED IN A MONUMENT TO MAN'S VANITY!

A PLACE CALLED CASTLE MORDO, MISTRESS!

CHAPTER SEVEN:

Invasive Surgery

THE MOUNTAINS OF TRANSYLVANIA.
CASTLE MORDO.
DOMAIN OF BARON KARL AMADEUS MORDO.
SEVEN MILES OFF THE COAST OF CORNWALL.
KALUMESH.
DOMAIN OF THE WARLORD DAGOTH.

KRA-KOOM

BARROOM

MORDO!!!

WHAT DOES *THIS* PREY CALL ITSELF, SWEET SISTER?
dagoth

UP TO YOUR OLD TRICKS, KARL?
DID YOU THINK I WOULDN'T SNIFF YOU OUT?!
DID YOU THINK I WOULD NOT NOTICE THAT THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO AND THE CLOAK OF LEVITATION LEFT BEHIND WERE POOR COUNTERFEITS?!
"YOU'VE NEVER BEEN STRONG ENOUGH TO COME AFTER ME ON YOUR OWN."
BUT YOU WOULD BORROW POWER, WOULDN'T YOU?
"MEWLING TO DORMAMMU FOR THE STRENGTH TO FACE ME."
BUT IT WASN'T THE STINK OF DORMAMMU'S MAGIC THAT WAS LEFT ON MY BODY.
"NO."
MY THIRD EYE PERCEIVED THE MAGICAL SIGNATURES OF SEVERAL POWERFUL BEINGS.
AGGAMON, TIBORO, UMAR...
"...AND DAGOTH."

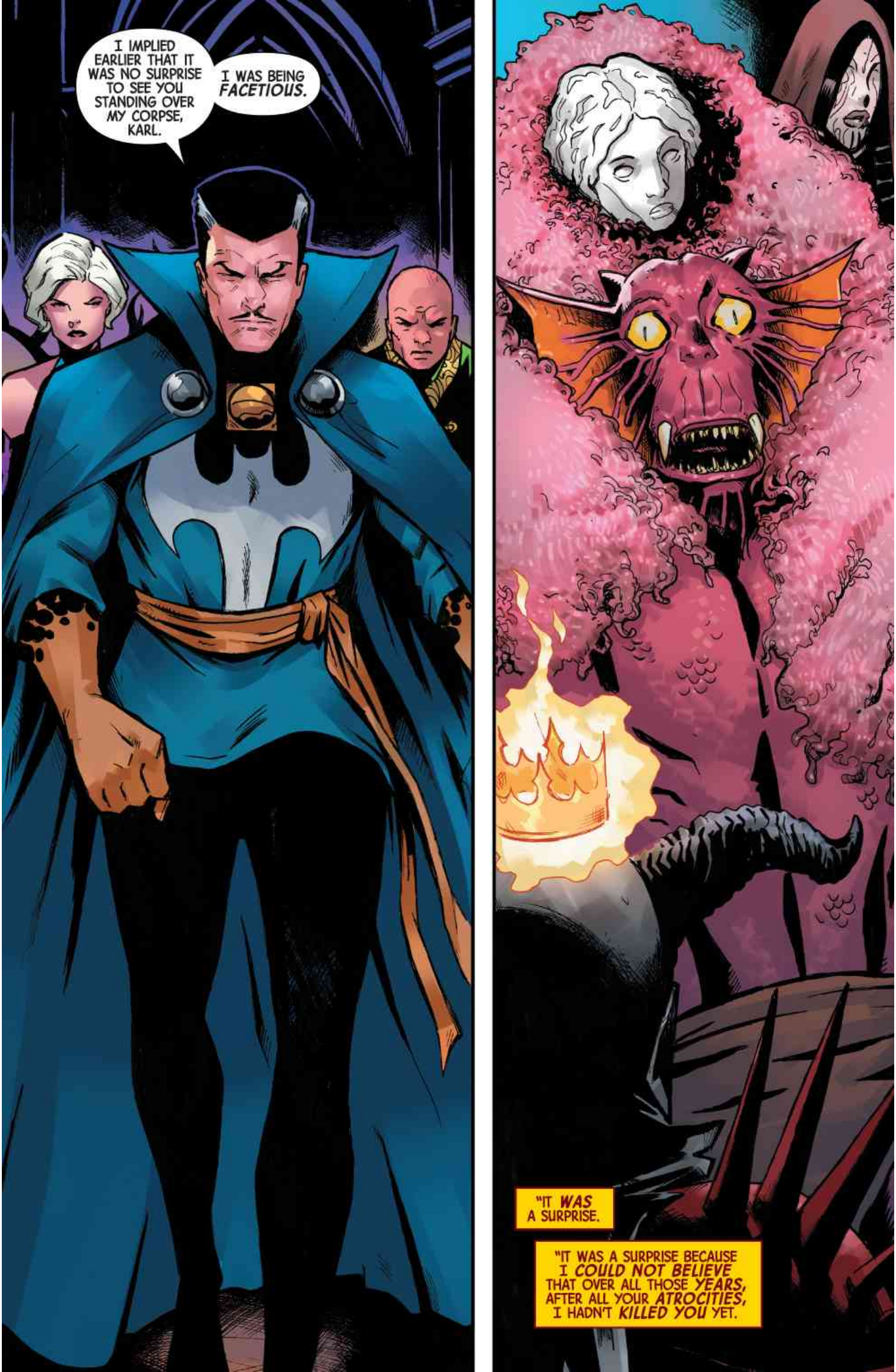
YOU BORROWED POWER NOT FROM ONE, BUT FOUR MIGHTY WARLORDS. SOLD YOUR SOUL AGAIN AND AGAIN.
ALL JUST TO SEE ME DIE.
YOU ABSOLUTE COWARD.

"YOU COULDN'T HELP YOURSELF, COULD YOU?"

AH.
KAECILIUS.

"COME HERE."

WHERE IS YOUR MASTER, WORM?
UMAR!
TIBORO!
AGGAMON!
AID ME!
TH-TH--
--THERE.
HA, HA, HA!
DO YOU TAKE ANY OF US TO BE YOUR FRIEND? OR FRIEND TO ONE ANOTHER?
DIE ALONE, FOOL! WE ARE UNITED BY ONE THING ONLY! DELIGHT IN YOUR BEING THE FIRST OF US TO FALL TO THE PEREGRINE CHILD!


I IMPLIED EARLIER THAT IT WAS NO SURPRISE TO SEE YOU STANDING OVER MY CORPSE, KARL.
I WAS BEING *FACETIOUS.*
"IT *WAS* A SURPRISE.
"IT WAS A SURPRISE BECAUSE I *COULD NOT BELIEVE* THAT OVER ALL THOSE *YEARS*, AFTER ALL YOUR *ATROCITIES*, I HADN'T *KILLED YOU* YET.

"BUT PLEASE, DON'T WORRY, KARL..."
A MEAL FOR YOU, MY LOVE.
OUR SWEETEST CHILD.

...THAT IS A MISTAKE I INTEND TO CORRECT!
TO BE CONTINUED!

NEXT:

Who Will Be the New Sorcerer Supreme?

Someone must stop the giant mythical threat devouring all magic, and it can't be the Avengers. Or the Fantastic Four. Or the X-Men. It'll take someone with the greatest skills and command over the mystic arts to save us all. It'll take the Sorcerer Supreme. But who will that be?!

EMAIL US AT MHEROES@MARVEL.COM AND MARK "OKAY TO PRINT"!

THE DEATH OF DOCTOR STRANGE

Checklist

- ~~Death of Doctor Strange #1~~ - ON SALE NOW
- ~~Death of Doctor Strange #2~~ - ON SALE NOW
- ~~Death of Doctor Strange: Avengers #1~~ - ON SALE NOW
- Strange Academy Presents: ~~The Death of Doctor Strange #1~~ - ON SALE NOW
- ~~Death of Doctor Strange #3~~ - ON SALE NOW
- Death of Doctor Strange: Spider-Man #1 - ON SALE NOW
- Death of Doctor Strange: White Fox #1
- Death of Doctor Strange: Blade #1
- Death of Doctor Strange: X-Men/Black Knight #1
- Death of Doctor Strange #4
- Death of Doctor Strange: Bloodstone #1
- Death of Doctor Strange #5

© 2021 MARVEL. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

ZONE